COMMITTEE

AYELE H. NEGUSSIE
Committee Member

DAVONIA BRYANT
Committee Member

ABISOLA UDE, MPP
Committee Member

SABRINA JONES
Committee Member

TIARA MATTHEWS
Committee Member

DONICA SUTTOM
Committee Member

Committee meets on the third Monday of each month.

MARIA GONZALES-JACKSON
Chair

KYLA M. CLARK
Councilmember

MARIA MORALES
Administrative Assistant II

(301) 725-5300
www.cityoflaurel.org

LAUREL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026
7:00 P.M.
VIRTUAL- ZOOM MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. with Chairwoman Maria Gonzales-Jackson presiding. The roll was called with the following members present: Toi O. Davis, Abisola Ude, and Ayele Negussie. Staff Present was Maria Morales, Secretary, Administrative Assistant II to the City Clerk. Councilwoman Kyla M. Clark Joined the meeting at 7:23pm. There were no members of the public present.

Approval of the Agenda:

Chair Gonzales-Jackson requested a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Toi Davis made a motion, Ms. Abisola Ude seconded the motion, and all members present voted to move forward with the agenda.

Approval of March 16, 2026, Meeting Minutes:

Chair Gonzales-Jackson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 16, 2026, as presented. Ms. Abisola Ude seconded the motion, and all members present voted by voice vote to approve the minutes as presented.

Discussion Items:

Next Steps

Chair Gonzales-Jackson reported that she did not currently have an update regarding next steps for the Committee. She is scheduled to meet with the Mayor in July and plans to discuss several ideas, including the possibility of hosting a Town Hall.
Ms. Davis informed the Chair that she is still unclear about the Committee's expected deliverables. Chair Gonzales-Jackson agreed and stated that she will address this concern with the Mayor as well.

The Chair noted that there are clear needs within the City, particularly in light of recent issues at Laurel High School and other surrounding schools related to fights and truancy. She emphasized that these challenges present an opportunity for increased

community engagement, especially with summer break approaching. Chair Gonzales-Jackson shared that in her most recent conversation with the Mayor, he reiterated that the committee serves in an advisory capacity, identifying needs and recommending actions the City can take. The Mayor has recently identified concerns related to teens getting into trouble, which led to the creation of the Safe Summer Nights program. Unfortunately, participation in the program has been low.

Committee members acknowledged that issues affecting teenagers are multifaceted, and without intervention at home and in schools, particularly regarding truancy, there is limited impact the City or Police can have in addressing these problems. Chair Gonzales-Jackson noted she would provide an update on her meeting with the Mayor during the next meeting.

Report of the City Council:

Councilwoman Clark informed the Committee that she recently spoke with several newspapers, including the Baltimore Sun, regarding the incidents of student fighting at Laurel High School. She encouraged the media to visit Laurel to highlight the positive work taking place in the schools, rather than focusing solely on negative events. Councilwoman Clark noted that there were many valuable programs underway, such as those offered by First Generation College Bound. She emphasized that amplifying isolated negative incidents harm the reputation of local schools and can adversely impact students applying for colleges and scholarships.

Councilwoman Clark further explained that the challenge extended beyond Laurel and was part of a broader regional issue, with numerous "teen takeovers" occurring across the area, including in the District of Columbia. Due to current laws regarding minors in Maryland, there are limited options for pursuing and implementing meaningful interventions. Nonetheless, she encouraged residents to re-engage as a community by addressing truancy when they observe students in school uniforms outside during school hours, by kindly asking why they are not in school.

Additionally, Councilwoman Clark reported that she had submitted a Youth Diversion Program proposal. The program would require students who commit offenses in Laurel to complete community service within the City and include fines for parents, consistent with the existing City Ordinance allowing a fine of up to $500. The intent of the program would be to provide accountability while preventing youth from obtaining records that could negatively impact their future.

She reminded the Committee that based on the needs identified within the City, the committee may submit recommendations to the Mayor. And noted that the Mayor can also issue recommendation letters supporting programs designed to keep youth engaged through work opportunities or other structured activities to the Prince George's County Board of Education and school systems.

Chair Gonzales-Jackson briefly brought up the changes to the resolution she received, noting that she would combine all noted comments and recommended changes

and present them. Councilwoman Clark agreed and asked that the resolution amendments be sent to her, she would sponsor it and bring it to the Council.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Approved: Date:

Maria Morales — September 21, 2026

Maria Morales
Administrative Assistant II

Education Advisory Committee

8103 Sandy Spring Road
Laurel, Maryland 20707-2502

Monday, June 15, 2026

7:00 PM

Please contact the Clerk at 301-725-5300 Ext. 2120 or clerk@laurel.md.us to request a Zoom Meeting link by 2:00 pm the day of the meeting.

- **Welcome** - Maria Gonzales Jackson, Chair

- **Roll Call -** Maria Morales, City Staff Clerk

- **Call the Meeting to Order** - Maria Gonzales Jackson, Chair

- **Approval of the Agenda** - Maria Gonzales Jackson, Chair

- **Approval of the Minutes** (March 16, 2026) - All

- **Report from City Council** – Council President Kyla Clark

- **Discussion**

  - **Next Steps**

- **Good of the Order** – All

- **Adjournment** - Maria Gonzales Jackson, Chair

Education Advisory Committee Voting Record

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 15, 2026, 7:00 pm Virtual

Meeting Start Time: 7:10pm Meeting Ended: 7:45pm Members of the Public: 0

1. **Welcome**
2. **Roll Call**

✓ Chair Maria Gonzales-Jackson Absent Davonia Bryant ✓ Councilman Kyla Clark ✓ Toi O. Davis
✓ Ayele H. Negussie ✓ Abisola Ude Absent Tiara Matthews ✓ Sabrina Jones Absent Donica Sutton

Joined @ 7:23 pm

3. **Call the Meeting to Order**

4. **Approval of Agenda**

✓ Chair Maria Gonzales-Jackson ___ Davonia Bryant ✓ Councilman Kyla Clark ✓ Toi O. Davis
✓ Ayele H. Negussie ✓ Abisola Ude ___ Tiara Matthews ✓ Sabrina Jones ___ Donica Sutton

5. **Approval of Minutes**

March 16, 2026, Meeting Minutes

1st Chair Maria Gonzales-Jackson ___ Davonia Bryant ___ Councilman Kyla Clark ✓ Toi O. Davis
✓ Ayele H. Negussie 2nd Abisola Ude ___ Tiara Matthews ✓ Sabrina Jones ___ Donica Sutton

6. **Report of City Council.**

Spoke to Baltimore Sun & other newspapers about violence @ Lits invited them to search the positive things happening in schools, not just the negatives, as this can harm the Schools reputation with only highlighting the one or two fights versus the good being done everyday. Negativity has implications for Students futures, with a bad rep w/ School. Teen Takeovers is a regional issue, due to current Juvenile laws, it is difficult to have meaning full interventions and solutions from the government & police. However she recommends talking to Students, becoming an "Aunty". Asking why they are outside, and not in school. Submitted a Youth Diversion program for students to pay in Laurel, the crimes committed in Laurel, this way they don't have a record, and fix what they did, while still penalizing parents w/ $600 fine in City Code. She encourages the committee to provide recommendations & Mayor can submit recommendation

7. **Discussion Items:**

Next Steps

Chair Gonzales Jackson does not have an update, is scheduled to meet with The Mayor in July, where she will discuss hosting a town hall. Ms. Davis is unclear on what the deliverables are for the committee, Chair indicated this is part of the reason she will meet with the Mayor, Ms. Davis stated it is hard to work and help the community without deliverables. Chair indicated there is an urgency in the community with all the problems at Laurel High School and the fighting, this is an opportunity to be engaged, especially with the Summer break. The last time the Mayor stated they are an advisory capacity, to identify needs, and advise him. Currently he has identified the issue with teens getting into trouble, and he created his initiative of Safe Summer nights and youth conversations, which has not been well attended. Issues are multi faceted, unfortunately if things aren't addressed at home or at school, there isn't much police can do to help their situation.

8. **Good of the Order**

9. **Adjourn**